

## THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 26th August 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. Deputy President (M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI AVARGAL, C.I.E.) in the chair.

### I

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. [Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

#### STARRED QUESTIONS.

*Renewal of licence to the Coimbatore Power Syndicate.*

\* 400 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have renewed the licence issued to the Coimbatore Power Syndicate, Ltd., and if so, on what conditions; whether it is a fact that the company is incurring a loss now by supplying power to Ootacamund under the licence and if so whether the Government have any intention of compensating them and if so in what way; and

(b) how many companies have been given licences for supplying power in the Nilgiris and how many licences are now in force; whether the Government have done anything to purchase the rights of any of these companies as suggested by the hon. the Law Member just before the close of the last session of the Council?

A.—(a) The licence issued to the Nilgiri Power Syndicate has been extended up to 19th October 1925 on the original conditions. The Government believe that the Syndicate is incurring some loss under the arrangements under which power is supplied for lighting Ootacamund; but they hope that matters will be satisfactorily adjusted when they can get on with their Pykara scheme.



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- (b) The Nilgiri Power Syndicate has a licence to supply electric energy to Wellington, Ootacamund, Coonoor and within 5 miles outside Coimbatore. The Syndicate had also a concession for the development of power from the Kundah river, but that has lapsed. Another syndicate in England has had a concession for the generation of power from the Pykara river; but as stated in the answer to question No. 399 the Government have been negotiating for the purchase of this concession and have recently brought the negotiations to a conclusion.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"With reference to the answer given in clause (b), may I know whether there are only two companies to whom licences were issued? I thought there were three."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"At the present moment it is only the Pykara concession which has been purchased."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"The Syndicate is outstanding."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Yes."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—"These are all yesterday's questions and answers. Most of the Members have not got copies of them. If there are spare copies we shall be obliged if they are supplied to us."



*Irrigation in Palayakayal village, Tinnevelly district.*

\* 401 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the ryots of Palayakayal village, Srivai-kuntam taluk, Tinnevelly district, have memorialised Government regarding the irrigation of the lands under Palayakayal tank in their village; and

(b) if so, what has been done with the said memorial and whether any orders have been passed to inquire into the statements contained therein?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The memorial has been sent to the Chief Engineer.

*Separate channel for Palayakayal tank.*

\* 402 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Palayakayal tank was originally designed to be fed by the North main channel system and whether the ryots of the said village have contributed a sum of Rs. 1,420 in the year 1869 with an express condition that a separate channel would be given to the Palayakayal tank from Peikulam tank;

(b) whether it is a fact that their village tank was originally fed through a separate sluice No. 4 of Peikulam tank which is still called 'Kayal Madai' in the bed of which the North main channel runs;